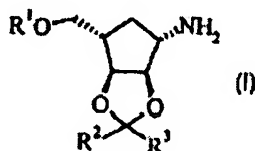


APPENDIX

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for the production of acetals and ketals of 3-amino-5-(hydroxymethyl)cyclopentane-1,2-diols of formula (I):



(and/or the enantiomer), where R^1 is H, C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl or benzyl and (i) R^2 is methyl and R^3 is ethyl, (ii) R^2 is H and R^3 is C_{1-6} -alkyl or phenyl or (iii) R^2 and R^3 together form a group of formula $-(CH_2)_n-$ with $n = 4$ to 6, present as free amines or as salts of di- or tri-basic organic acids, starting from 2-acetyl-2-azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-en-3-one of formula (II):



(and/or the enantiomer). The method is equally useful, depending on the starting material, for the production of enantiomerically-pure compounds, or mixtures with arbitrary enantiomeric content.